

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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NEA:NAVELIOTES
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P 121443Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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STADIS////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OCON

SUBJECT: AF/ARA LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: CAIRO 13322, STATE 185528

1. HOWARD SAMUEL, LABOR DEPARTMENT, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS, HAS WRITTEN ME CONCERNING THE ATTENDANCE OF LABOR REPORTING OFFICER VITTORIO BROD AT THE AF/ARA LABOR CONFERENCE. I UNDERSTAND YOU DECIDED YOU COULD NOT SPARE BROD TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF CAIRO'S CURRENT WORKLOAD. I ASSUME THE FACT THAT HE WILL HAVE BEEN ABSENT FROM CAIRO SEPTEMBER 20-24 ATTENDING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUR/NEA NARCOTICS COORDINATORS CONFERENCE IN ROME ALSO INFLUENCED YOUR DECISION.

2. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY SAMUEL IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE BROD PARTICIPATE FOR EVEN PART OF THE CONFERENCE TO QUOTE ENABLE US TO GET HIS READING OF EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS ON THE AFRICAN SCENE, NOTABLY IN THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS GROUP AND

IN AFRICAN TRADE UNION MATTERS; MORE IMPORTANTLY, HIS PRESENCE WOULD GIVE US A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH HIM ON A RANGE OF CURRENT EGYPTIAN LABOR MATTERS SUCH AS THE ILO, THE OUTLOOK FOR U.S.-EGYPTIAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION, EGYPTIAN MANPOWER DEVELOPMENTS, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE LABOR/MANPOWER FIELD. AS YOU KNOW,

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH EACH OF THESE AREAS WILL BE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE AS WILL TWO KEY AFL-CIO OFFICIALS, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS LEE AND PATRICK O'FARRELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER. THUS, BROD'S AVAILABILITY TO CONSULT WITH THESE PERSONS WOULD BE GREATLY USEFUL FOR US AND, I AM SURE, THE EMBASSY AS WELL. END QUOTE.

3. O'FARRELL CALLED VELIOTES MAKING STRONG PITCH FOR BROD ATTENDANCE. O'FARRELL IS IMPORTANT ADVOCATE OF FORGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AFL-CIO AND EGYPTIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE BELIEVES BROD'S PRESENCE WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN ENCOURAGING LEE IN THIS DIRECTION.

4. DOL IS PREPARED TO PAY BROD'S TRAVEL COSTS AS WELL AS HIS PER DIEM IN TUNIS. DOL PROPOSED THAT, IF HE CAN ONLY SPEND TWO DAYS IN TUNIS, HE BE THERE FOR THE SESSIONS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29.

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5. FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER YOU CAN SPARE BROD FOR THESE TWO-THREE DAYS IS CLEARLY YOURS TO MAKE. I WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE YOUR REVIEWING THIS QUESTION AGAIN IN LIGHT OF SAMUEL'S PERSONAL INTEREST AND O'FARRELL'S SUPPORTING PITCH, AND OF FULLER EXPLANATION SAMUEL HAS GIVEN US OF SUBJECTS ON WHICH BROD'S PRESENCE COULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTION. IF BROD COULD ATTEND, THIS WOULD ALSO FRANKLY BE HELPFUL TO NEA IN POLITICS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH DOL WITH WHICH WE HAVE SEVERAL ISSUES PENDING WHICH WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RESOLVE TO THEIR SATISFACTION. VANCE

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